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JANUARY, 1915

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A Treatise on Trees

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The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

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What Opportunities Has 1915 in Store?

Perhaps no year in the history of San Diego, certainly none in the present Century, has started with the freight of "Great Expectations" that accompanies 1915. What will the harvest be? Prophecies innumerable have been made both by those who might make a good guess and others who have no equipment except the ability to make a noise either with mouth or pen, and the latter are as usual, in the great majority. We care not where we are placed, because we know that from us the future actions of both gods and men are hidden, but we believe that the old trite saying" The Gods help those who help themselves" is something more than a religious sentiment, that it expresses a law of the universe, and so surely as this San Diego, a unit in a great aggregation, has conceived and accomplished a great work in its Exposition, how great will only appear to many as the year goes on, as surely the corresponding compensation will come. Whether it will take the popular form of real estate barter and exchange as so many hope, we don't consider, because when one places one's case in the hands of the gods it surely would seem hardly polite to indicate the verdict. We are supremely content to know that that verdict will be just, and to believe our community deserves something a little extra.

We know this is a garden magazine and philosophizing ought to be tabooed but our mind has been running on a short conversation held during the nurserymen's convention last October. We were seeking a recognition for California Garden from a prominent visiting nurseryman and in making our plea remarked that personally we received nothing for our labor. He to whom we made suit replied that there were other compensations than money or salary possible to an editor. At the time we had a slight feeling of being insulted and since have often wished that we had asked the gentleman what these emoluments might be; one has been discovered, and we realise we have always had it, the privilege of doing as the moment suggested. When the reader comes on something in this magazine that he deems a weed in the California Garden let him say "This is the editor's compensation" and pass it by.

Surely every gardener will recognize that during 1915 he must garden as he never gardened before. We are to keep open house as a community the entire year; hope for a constant stream of visitors day in and day out; no chance for special cleanups, no letups. That is a strenuous program that can be only carried out by a strong steady effort. It allows no place for sitting up for three nights running and then staying in bed for a week, it has no room for hysteria. All dilettante gardeners had better at once make arrangements to let out their gardening for 1915. Of course you will all say "oh the Garden, I can not bother about that, I must get my straw hat for the day appointed" and "I must get that dream of a dress that I have conceived made against the reception to the Lord High Executioness." Very well, to keep you up to the mark there, is the job of a society editor. We cannot afford one, our care is in the garden.

Perhaps the most important part of getting ready is to plan for a succession of things, and we have asked the general man to be rather particular under that head. It is to be hoped that all this exhortation is quite unnecessary, in which case we are glad rather than sorry for our wasted effort.

Our faithful and valued contributor Mr. G. P. Hall has notified us that his doctor forbids him to continue his articles. It must be quite needless to say that we feel we have sustained in this a severe loss which however for the moment is very secondary to the gratitude we feel for his years of service given, by the way, entirely without monetary compensation. At the time California Garden was started there was no man but Mr. Hall among us who could carry the vegetable garden end and today his place will be very hard to fill. The influence for betterment of our gardens both as to selection and cultivation of G. P. Hall cannot be over estimated and his quaint phrasing will be sadly missed in the garden literature of the State. G. P. Hall has always been an expounder of practice, not theory only.

{First Bulb Show *by the* Floral Association—late in March}

A Glimpse of Chinese Gardens

The following is taken from "Letters from a Chinese Official" to which the editor of this magazine has been recently introduced by a kind and better read friend. This little book is an arraignment of our Western civilization by a Chinaman, and though its charges are unpalatable they are undoubtedly true, that is from a Chinaman's point of view. Knowing that most of us will claim at least not to care a red cent what a Chinaman thinks and therefore refuse to read what one has written even if it be a literary gem, this description of real China at her best is reprinted with acknowledgement of personal admiration for the ability of its author.

"Far away in the East, under sunshine such as you never saw (for even such light as you have you stain and infect with sooty smoke), (this was written for England) on the shore of a broad river stands the house where I was born. It is one among thousands: but every one stands in its own garden, simply painted in wnite or gray, modest, cheerful, and clean. For many miles along the valley, one after the other, they lift their blue—or red— tiled roofs out of a sea of green: while here and there glitters out over a clump of trees the gold enamel of some tall pagoda. The river, crossed by frequent bridges and crowded with barges and junks, bears on its clear stream the traffic of thriving village markets. For prosperous peasants people all the district, owning and tilling the fields their fathers owned and tilled before them. The soil on which they work, they may say, they and their ancestors have made. For see! almost to the summit what once were barren hills are waving green with cotton and rice, sugar, oranges, and tea. Water drawn from the river-bed girdles the slopes with silver; and falling from channel to channel in a thousand bright cascades, plashing in cisterns, chuckling in pipes, soaking and oozing in the soil, distributes freely to all alike fertility, verdure, and life. Hour after hour you may traverse, by tortuous paths, over tiny bridges, the works of the generations who have passed, the labors of their children of today: till you reach the point where man succumbs and Nature has her way, covering the highest crags with a mantle of azure and gold and rose, gardenia, clematis, azalea, growing luxuriantly wild. How ofter here have I sat for hours in a silence so intense that, as one of our poets has said, "you may hear the shadows of the trees rustling on the ground": a silence broken only now and again from far below by voices of laborers calling across the watercourses, or, at evening or dawn, by the sound of gongs summoning to worship from the temples in the valley. Such silence! Such sounds! Such perfume! Such colors! The senses respond to their objects: they grow exquisite to a degree you canot well conceive in your northern climate: and beauty pressing in from without moulds the spirit and mind insensibly to harmony with herself."

A TREATISE ON TREES

AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting of the San Diego Floral Associationn was held on the 15th at the Francis W. Parker School, when Max Watson, Hugo Klauber, Miss K. O. Sessions and A. D. Robinson discussed the subject of "Trees."

Here are some of the thoughts and suggestions brought out by the various speakers:

In considering the planting of street trees, one great drawback in San Diego is the narrow parkings throughout the city. In Denver and Salt Lake City it is not unusual to see parkings from ten to twenty feet wide, while here three feet makes a wide parking. Wherever possible parkings should be widened, and in ney subdivisions this feature should be considered.

San Diego is a beautiful home city and anything which will make it more beautiful is as important as the securing of great factories. The planting of street trees will work wonders in the appearance of the city. But no great progress can be made until there is a fund available to carry on the work, and until the people put aside their petty personal prejudices and unite on the kind of trees to be planted. It seems almost impossible to get the residents to agree on the planting of two or three blocks together.

San Diego, not having hot summers, doesn't

need heavy shade trees, and trees should not be planted so close that their branches will touch when grown. Our soil is not deep and damp, and the first important consideration is to dig a hole big enough to give an opportunity for proper root growth. In fact, the biggest expense is in digging the hole. The pepper tree is conceded to stand at the top of the list of desirable street trees, if planted under right conditions. It is a large tree and needs wide parkings and good soil.

The blackwood acacia by many is considered the best street tree for all-around purposes, capable of being trained into a well-shaped tree, and a very reliable one.

Acacia Baileyana is another artistic and beautiful tree, with its fine foliage and beautiful blossoms. Acacia Floribunda also is a favorite, and these are followed by the Eucalyptus, the Oaks, Jacaranda, Prunus Integrifolia, etc. Eucalyptus Ficifolia is considered to be the most beautiful tree that grows, but in attempts to make a street tree of it, they have not grown of uniform size and shape.

In speaking of the above as the best street trees, it is after acknowledging that a great many believe the palm to be of the very first consideration, because of the semi-tropical touch which it gives; and of the palms Cocos Plumosa seems to be the favorite.

Where the parkings are too narrow for trees, various shrubs and plants may be used instead.

Many cities make their forrestry department an important feature, having a large force of men constantly at work, and considerable sums of money appropriated. Denver and Salt Lake City have beautiful street trees. From the capitol dome, Denver looks like a huge park. They narrow the drives and give more space to parkings.

Hugo Klauber, who is a native son, asked a pertinent question, when he said, "Most of you people come from the East, where they have beautiful shade trees; why do you want a bare San Diego? The greatest trouble is the opposition of the people. A few will sign a petition to have a street planted to trees, and the rest will fight. Not a single petition has been presented where a majority of the property owners were agreed on what should be done."

Klauber also told of the work of the "City Beautiful" campaign and the great quantities of cuttings and seeds which the Federation of State Societies are distributing.

Miss K. O. Sessions emphasized the need of doing a job of planting right at first, as much time and money is wasted in having to do it over again when improperly planted. We don't want trees to grow like a hedge. Most varieties should be at least fifty feet apart and the blackwood acacias will stand seventy-five feet. Cocos Plumosas may be 25 to 30 feet.

A new tree has been introduced from South America, Acer Oblongum, an evergreen maple. Speciments have grown 25 feet in five years. They are evergreen, shapely and clean. Thus far no bad habits have been discovered.

Of trees suitable for garden planting, the Magnolia, Montezuma Cypress, Guadaloupe Cypress, evergreen Elm, Camphor tree, and Italian Cypress, all may be considered. Every garden should have at least one good tree.

Miss Sessions told of the beauties, habits and growth of the Poinsettia, and how San Diego had become the leader in growing them for the northern and inland markets.

The live oak as a street tree found a champion in A. D. Robinson, who said they are not as slow in growth as many believe. A fine specimen at Rosecroft was cited as an example. Hibiscus was recommended where parkings are too narrow for trees. They may be seen effectively used at the Grant residence. The effect of green trees against white walls is always pleasing, and the modern cement dwellings need them.

The Hammond Mando-Quintet, of the Gittelson Conservatory of Music, furnished several delightful numbers during the evening.

THE ROSE IN JANUARY

BY the end of this month there should not be one rosebush left in the nurseries of San Diego, and it is submitted to our City Fathers, or Uncles, or whatever they may be, who spend our money, that it would be a good scheme to arrange to take and plant all stock on hand at February 1st. Such planting might, in some instances at least, be made on private property, if there were any assurance that one who would not plant roses for himself would give them some attention if planted for him. It is by no means uncommon for a city to spend money officially for bunting, flags and even fireworks, why not then for roses. Possibly the entire leftover stock would not amount to $500.00. This is no nurseryman's suggestion as it supposes a big discount on regular prices. Just for instance, some local house might offer all left-over rose stock on February 1st to the City Council at an attractive reduction in price, appending thereto a bid for planting the same. Of course this is written in gross ignorance of both the law,

and the inclination of our Fathers in conclave, but it is an easy experiment that might prove interesting.

Careless of reiteration, which is anyway a necessary part of all teaching, let us take up the pruning of roses as this should not be delayed much longer. Pruning is done for two reasons, speaking generally, for shape and for bloom. A few general instructions will cover the shape act. Remove all dead wood first, cutting back in each instance to healthy growth. As long as brown stain shows go deeper, for this is an indication of soured sap. Thin out till every branch has a chance to develop its new growth. Never lose sight of the fact that roses bloom on new wood and you must leave room for the growth of such. When deciding between two growths always retain the younger one, provided it is well matured. Remember you don't have to leave a head of little twigs on the top of your bush, these are to grow as your bloom shoots. Never cut till you know what you are going to do and why you do it.

Pruning for blooms is a far more ticklish matter. It calls for a knowledge of roses not only in general but in particular.. Big books have been written on this subject, but here is only space for a few hints. All that that has been said applies again as to deadwood, room, etc., and to it be added that quantity and quality won't go together, and that as a general axiom the weaker the growth the severer the pruning indicated. If this last seems almost wicked consider what is sought to be done by the cutting, is it not to concentrate the growing energy within the possible limits of best production, therefore the weakling is given the lightest task. Selecting from two to six of the best canes of last year's wood, the rest of the bush is cut away, particularly those thin growths that start at the base. By best canes are meant those of sturdy habit whose bark is smooth with wood well ripened, that has passed out of the pithy stage, and free from foliage. These should be shortened back to about two feet. A measure is given rather than specifying a number of buds because these should be controlled afterwards by rubbing off as they develop and herein lies a chance to form the bush to some extent. In starting, the top buds push first so that if a bush leans this can be offset by pruning to a bud pointing in the opposite direction. With varieties inclined to straggle cut to an inside bud, the Cochets are better for this.

Considering pruning from the standpoint of classes, Hybrid Teas, to which class most varieties successfully grown here belong, need severe cutting. Under this head come Joseph Hill, Mrs. Aaron Ward, General McArthur, Harry Kirk, Lady Battersea, Lyon, etc. The Teas want lighter pruning and need more space, such are The Cochets, Lady Ashtown, Edward Mawley, Catherine Mermet, Papa Gontier, Perle des Jardin, Dr. Grill, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Marie Van Houte, Safrano, etc. Hybrid Perpetuals only require slight heading back; these include Black Prince, Captain Christy, Frau Karl Druschki, Ulrich Bruner, etc. The Briars, including Juliet and Soleil d'Or, and the Polyanthas, such as Cecile Bruner and Perle d'Or, need nothing but the dead wood removed though Cecile Bruner will stand cutting for a hedge effect. Climbing roses would give better results if they were thinned out annually. Where Marechal Niel is grown under glass it is considered good culture to take it down off the supports, prune it back to bare long branches and leave it recumbent for a few weeks. This causes an even starting of the buds when it is replaced, which otherwise have a tendency to push only at the end of the branches.

After the pruning get in the big digging of the year. Let this be as deep as you or some hired person will go, and work in a good lot of manure, a little lime would probably be helpful. From the roses' standpoint there is an awful lot of fraud about this clean cultivation with a smooth pleasing surface as the ultimate end of gardening effort. It is like putting on a clean apron to hide a dirty dress. At least once a year the soil should be deeply stirred.

Nothing has been said about pruning standard or, so-called tree-roses, because they are still scarce hereabouts; however, they are bound to gain in favor so let it be said that these are cut to form a spherical head and require special care to eliminate crossing of branches or other crowding. It requires two or three years of good treatment to get enough wood to make a good head. From three years experience it seems safe to say that General McArthur, Joseph Hill and Lyon will give better results as standards than as bushes. Visitors from the North and East have expressed surprise at these three growing as standards here.

Pasadena Visitors

Mr. G. W. Tewksbury, of North Raymond Ave., Pasadena, made San Diego and her exposition a visit this past week, enjoying the hospitality of his friend, Mr. O. J. Stough, and the growing things of the City. His garden is now his pleasure and hobby. It is a joy to see what others are doing and Mr. Tewksbury sent home some plants of Vitis Rhombifolia and Vitis Hyperglauca, and later wants more of our choice plants.

The Henry A. Greer Company calls our Buddleia variabalis the "Butterfly Plant". Can anyone explain why? This violet-colored flowering shrub is doing very well along the west driveway in Balboa Park.

General Garden Operations for January

A SPECIAL request has come from the editor to deal in this article with planning for and executing a succession of bloom in the garden covering a long period. Obviously the editor has been bitten by the mosquito expositionensis and must be obeyed. Before discussing varieties of flowers, it might be as well to briefly go over the technique of raising them from seed, as that will be the method employed by most of the readers of this article.

Most annuals are grown from seed sown in shallow boxes, practically all the exceptions being varieties that will not transplant successfully, such as Mignonette and Poppies, whose very thin thread-like single roots are very intolerant of any exposure to the air nowever brief. Please do not send in notice of instances where these two plants have been transplanted, for it is not an uncommon malpractice. Now to a consideration of the materials for handling seeds. The box to be used should be from two to three inches deep, having a slow drainage facility such as the junction of two unplaned boards will provide, and the size should not exceed a square foot, this being plenty large for the average package of seed and not being cumbersome or heavy to move. The soil should be of a light character, such as leaf mould sifted through a medium mesh. If leaf mould is not to be had, ordinary garden soil with a large proportion of sand can be used, the essential quality being to absorb water without gumming or baking. The box should be filled to within half an inch of the top with the sifted soil in a moist, not wet, condition. This should be thoroughly firmed, particular attention being given to the corners and sides. If this is neglected the first sprinkling will make the surface very uneven possibly creating holes in the corners. Even off the top with a piece of board or other flat surface and distribute the seed, (don't sow too thickly just to use up all there is in the package), cover with the appropriate thickness four times the size of the seed, and press down again. If the soil was properly moist no immediate watering is necessary; in fact if conditions will allow none should be given till the seed sprouts. Place the box away in a strong light behind glass window frame, or conservatory, and cover with two thicknesses of any daily paper. Sheets of this magazine won't do as they will not sufficiently obscure the light. Keep constant tab on progress. The surface of the soil must not get dry and sprinkling must be done with care and a very fine spray or the seed will be washed to the surface or otherwise disturbed. Very fine seed such as begonia and fern spores are sown on the surface of the ground without covering and water is applied to these by setting the box in a pan of water and letting the moisture soak up from below. When the seed starts to sprout the cover must be removed or the little plants will become weedy, but they must not be exposed for a few days to direct sunlight nor allowed to dry up. As soon as the seedlings begin to crowd they must be pricked out or transplanted into other boxes giving each one room to develop. From this on it is merely a question of keeping the seedlings growing and transplanting again if necessary. The main effort should be to grow a sturdy plant, the contributing factors to which are plenty of light and air, a mean temperature, water enough to keep the soil moist not wet, and room enough to grow sideways as well as up.

As to what should be planted the possibilities are legion, and here only a few are named just as a starter. Stocks, of course, to commence. It is a bit late for seed planting so you better get some plants and put them according to color in masses. There are splendid buffs, creams, pinks and blues. A stock well grown will cover a square yard. They want rich soil and good drainage. To follow the stocks we have Calliopsis, Coreopsis, Marigolds, both the French and African, the latter being the big kind, Cornflower or Centaurea, Snapdragons, Asters, Zinnias Gaillardias. All these can be started from seed now and will follow one another in blooming right into the Fall. Get the best seed you can; it is the truest economy.

Out in the open plant Mignonette, Poppies big and little and a good sized patch of Petunias, not the old magenta but the white variety Snowball. Put these where you will pass them at night and can enjoy their fragrance.

You must attend to the pruning of shrubs, the trimming of hedges, and now is the appointed time for spading in fertilizer. Give your garden a very generous mulching this year; it is going to be worked hard.

Sweet peas can be planted right along. Judging by color plates, admittedly often gay deceivers, there are some very beautiful new varieties. Miss Sessions showed a wonderful stalk of a pink grown for seed by her brother for the specialist Zvolanek, I hope that is spelled correctly, at Pacific Beach.

If any desire to try Lobelia Cardinalis, that wonderful scarlet joy with rich bronze foliage, this is the month to plant the seed. It will not bloom till the second year. A hurry up kind has arrived to suit the Can't-waits of the age.

Order some seed of the Red Sunflower. It is not all it was cracked up to be, but it should be numerous among us in 1915.

Get ready for the Bulb Show.

The Man and the Oak

ALFRED D. ROBINSON

The sun was hot and the man in no hurry, so he reined up under a giant oak, and having unsaddled and tied his horse with a riata to a smaller tree, he spread a blanket under the patriarch of the grove, rolled and lighted a cigarette and lay down. A score of years spent in the mountains of Southern California near the Mexican line had made the man a part of them, as much as the wild things that lived there. He knew them in all their moods. Storm swept and drenched with pelting rain, even snow in the higher altitudes, in winter, when every canyon bottom held a rushing stream, and the trail was hard to follow. In the spring, when torrents turned to tinkling brooks, and the wild flora of tree and bush and plant scented the tonic air, and the green grass lay like velvet on the plateaus. And in the Fall of dry creek beds and brown burnt plains, when water was in spots and the cattle bunched in the senecas among the cottonwoods. He loved them whatever the season, and being of an imaginative type, he endowed them with a separate consciousness. On one mountain he was gay, on another sad, while a third made him dream of a career in the life of the world outside his range in the hills.

The old oak that now shaded him from the sun was no new acquaintance, many a time before he had taken a siesta in its lap, and he called it "Mother." This day he could almost fancy himself a sapling, and he mused, "If I were really a child of old mother oak and were sitting in her lap what tales of folks and things she could tell me. Here has she stood for centuries giving of her shade and acorns to man and beast, black and white, just and unjust. The timber expert could cut her down and by a study of the rings in a cross section tell her age, the years of drought and plenty of rain. Has she no record of other things? Didn't that medium tell me of that Indian fight by just handling the piece of an olla I had picked from the spot where it happened? If in a broken potsherd there could be such a record, must not old "Mother" be a mine of history? I wish I could hear her story."

And musing thus he rolled on his side, pillowed his head on a bulging root and fell asleep. With his body asleep his spirit found freedom and looked at the oak with the eye that sees. Upon its gnarled trunk appeared a smooth, clear circle, across which like moving pictures passed the record of the years. The man cared nothing about chronology. In telling the story afterwards he ignored the order altogether, the only thing about which he was insistent, was that he didn't dream, he really spoke heart to heart with Mother Oak, and he would add with a smile, "You know I am part English and I have learned to swear by 'Heart of Oak.' "

In the circle appeared the great oak tree, and under it he saw the deer feed, the wild pigeon fill its craw with acorns. He saw the Indian tepee, and the papoose in its basket leaned against the trunk while its mother gathered the oak fruit and pounded it into meal in the stone mortar. There were the bows and flint tipped arrows by the tent door, and a lithe young buck courted a dusky maiden in the moonlight and drank to her sloe black eyes from olla hung from the lowest branch.

A Spanish mission cavalcade next sought the shelter. A bareheaded priest said mass by a wooden cross and led the converted Indians to baptism in the creek below, while the Cavaliers cast lewd eyes on the Indian maidens. The oak registered the pious work of the one and its undoing by the other. Up among the branches ran the smoke of the incense, the good thoughts and the bad, the conflict 'twixt God and the devil.

Then came a soldiers' bivouac, Mexican troops, whose saddles and bridles were studded with silver. They had evidently ridden hard and were off by daybreak to the North, only to be back again in hot haste with some of their number missing and steed and man showing signs of the road. But a brief halt and away tney went Southwards. In their place a party of Fremont's troops, who introduced to the oak, new ways of the white man. Two or three times the soldiers occupied the circle. The picturesque cowboy came and went. The prospector with his burros looked over his specimens and fried his

bacon and beans, and two of them arrived together and fixed camp for the night. With daybreak they rose and one of them started breakfast. While he turned the spitting bacon in the pan the other stole up behind him with a knife in his hand and plunged it into his neck right where the collar bone makes a hollow. The hands of the stabbed man went up and he fell on his back, for a moment his limbs twitched, then his jaw dropped and he was still. The assassin stooped on one knee beside the corpse and rifled his pockets of a canvass sack, got up, looked 'round fearfully and disappeared off the circle.

There on his back the dead man lay while the sun and the moon succeeded each other four times. The tethered burros, frantic for feed and still worse off for water, strained at their ropes and pawed the earth, till they had dug a great hole. The wild beasts of the mountains, the California lion and the coyote stole up by night and did horrible things to the body, till it lost all personality. At last two horsemen rode up, they stood a moment

in horror, then one of them turned the mules loose while the other searched the clothing of the dead. After a little consultation they set to work enlarging the hole dug by the mules and in it they buried the remains, and departed hurriedly.

For a long time thereafter the circle reflected nothing but the wild things and the cattle that roamed the plateau. No Indians came to gather acorns, no traveller took a siesta or built a camp fire, but the rise of the grave became level, the grass made it one with the ground around, the old pictures came back. Not the same pictures, the Indians wore the clothing of the whites, they brought something in bottles which on drinking seemed to set them crazy. They fought with each other and beat the women, and many a drunken orgy went on in the circle of the oak.

Among the white men was a frequent commanding figure, a man nearly seven feet tall, who seemed to be in authority, those with him followed his directions. They came and they went at his gestures. From black his beard grew grey and towards the end another led his horse and helped him to dismount, he was tended like a child, he was blind.

All sorts of people and conveyances succeeded, tourists evidently, they came and went in a steady stream. Wagons, light and heavy, evidently a resort had started up behind. Finally an auto made its appearance and the man awoke to hear the chug-chug of the gasoline engine as the car mounted the grade the other side of the stream. He sat up and faced the trunk of the oak with his hands clasped round his knees. The bark was there just as it had always been, no circle. He looked at it steadily, but musingly.

"That's funny," he said, "I remember hearing that story about the two prospectors, but I thought it was miles from here where it happened, and that tall old man was Warner from whom this grant is named. They say the man who did the murdering was never caught, yet I would not like to be he, even if he is dead now, with the record of the deed set in the heart of Mother Oak."

Winter or Spring—Which?

G. T. K.

Holly is really a necessity at Christmas time, and if you demur at buying a skimpy little wreath on the street for fifty cents, the thing to do is go out where it lives and pluck it yourself.

A quest for holly furnished just the right kind of an excuse to ramble out to the hills on the morning before Christmas. It was after several days of rain and the morning sun was not yet high enough to have dispelled the moisture of the night before, nor chase away the heavy odors.

Others had told of a scarceness of holly-berries near town, but a rancher on a load of wood said to "Cross Mission Valley, take the second or third draw to the left, follow it on foot for a thousand yards and you will find what you are after." So I did and I did.

Back East, when we had nice warm rains, and the grass became green, and the wild flowers started, and the birds whistled and sang in the trees, and the fresh, bracing air was laden with perfume, we called that Spring.

Then it must have been Spring on that morning before Christmas at San Diego, California, for every one of those indications were present, and more besides, and that little trip would have been worth the effort, even if I hadn't come back with a load of holly generously covered with berries.

Get ready for the Bulb Show.

The Vegetable Garden

By WALTER BIRCH

So far this winter we have been rather exceptionally blessed with timely rains, and altho' the temperature has been, and is, somewhat chill, still the outlook for a good gardening season is unusually promising. Be sure and take advantage of the moisture that has fallen, and where you have not already done so, spade up to a good depth all ground you intend utilizing for planting purposes, digging in a generous supply of well rotted manure. It is the poorest sort of economy to keep exhausting the natural plant foods contained in the soil without returning them from time to time. Don't forget to keep the surface of your garden well cultivated. It prevents baking, conserves moisture and promotes growth.

In the vegetable garden you can keep on planting and sowing all of the hardier vegetables, such as table beets, carrots, cabbage and cauliflower both seeds and plants, Broad Windsor and Canadian Wonder beans. Plant garlic and onion sets, horseradish and asparagus roots. Sow kale, lettuce, peas and parsnip, also parsley and salsify. Plant your potatoes now for the home garden. Early Rose, White Rose and American Wonder are good varieties for early planting. This is also a good month to set out your rhubarb roots in rich well manured ground where you can give them an abundance of water. Burbanks crimson winter and Wagner's giant seedling are two good kinds to plant. Get your strawberry plants out now so that you will have berries fit for the table in the Spring. Set your plants from 8 to 10 inches apart in the row and your rows about 2 ft. apart. The Brandywine Strawberry is the most commonly used in Southern California.

Now is the time to plant deciduous fruit trees of all kinds. Dig large holes and soften up the soil at the bottom, so as to give the roots a chance to strike down. Spread the roots carefully as they were in the nursery and fill in with the top soil first, and if you use manure let it be well rotted and thoroughly mixed with the soil. Set your trees a little deeper than they were in the nursery row, and don't be afraid to cut them back to a height of about three feet from the ground. Most kinds of deciduous fruit trees should be pruned severely enough the first two or three years after planting, so as to give them the necessary strength and sturdiness of limb to properly support the required shape and size of the full grown tree. Unfortunately most people hate to cut back at first, and consequently have a straggling tree with no shape, and incapable of carrying a fair crop of fruit.

The present month is also seasonable for planting orange, lemon and grape fruit trees for the home garden, if you procure good trees, well balled and sacked, that have been dug for some time. You can also plant the Feijoa Sellowiana or Pineapple Guaga now. It is a hardy tree, and of undoubted value both as a fruit and ornamental plant. If you plant any peaches don't forget the new "Hale Peach" which is considered the best all around peach yet introduced. It is timely now to plant bulbs of the Gladiolas, of which there is such a wonderful range of color, and which does remarkably well here, also different varieties of lilies, such as the Rubrum Auratum and others. Continue to plant narcissus, anemones, ranunculus, German iris, Japanese iris, calla lilies, amaryllis, agapanthus, etc., and on well spaded and manured ground sow acrodinium, alyssum antirrhinum, calendula, calliopsis, centurea, cosmos, gaillardia, larkspur, mignonette, poppies and sweet peas. And don't forget to seed that patch to California poppies or wild flower mixture, so that you will have something truly Californian to delight the eye during the Spring and Summer.

THE LATH HOUSE

We are having seasonable weather made to suit as many kinds of people as possible and the only grumbler is he who lacks something to grumble at. The particular seasonableness sought to be emphasized. Here is the mean low temperature, nothing is growing with any vigor not even the weeds, yet the sun shines and the wind dries. This presents a combination that calls for special attention in the lath-house. Potted things must not be allowed to get too dry and promiscuous watering may prove fatal, because of the absence of growth to use the moisture. No detailed advice is possible but it is necessary that frequent inspections be made. In applying water give enough to moisten all the contents of the pot but avoid as much as possible the sprinkling of foliage. Another thing, al-

ways water in the morning, and for house plants it would be better to take the chill off the water. Don't attempt to hurry things up, this rest means energy stored against the appointed season and will show later on in added beauty.

It seems to the writer that he has done little else but boost for tuberous begonias, nevertheless he has a strong urge to present them again here. It is not too early to get your stock ordered at least. At this writing there is no apparent evidence in the advertising columns of California Garden that these tubers are carried in stock locally, but probably announcements will appear next month, if not this paper knows where they can be had. They come in assorted colors scarlet, white, pink, crimson, yellow and orange. Also in singles and doubles, fringed and frilled. They will thrive out-of-doors in a partially shaded location in a rich light compost, in a lathhouse they are peculiarly happy, or they make good house plants in either pot or hanging basket. More of their culture next month.

Ferns may be repotted to advantage, and at once it should be said that this does not necessarily mean into a larger pot, in fact to employ too large a pot is one of the chief errors of the amateur. Most ferns do their best growing after their roots have filled the container and are running along between it and the soil. Generally speaking the best potting medium is composed of leaf mold and sharp sand in the ratio of about three to one, some ferns like a little peat but quite a good many varieties cannot abide it, a little bone meal or pulverized sheep manure may be added, by little is meant not more than a teaspoon to a plant. If ferns such as maidenhair are to be divided, cut them in pieces with a sharp knife. In potting take a small stick to pack the soil round the edges, it should not be too solid but there should be no vacuums. Using care, most of the old soil is best removed chiefly from the centre from below, the live roots are on the outside. Water thoroughly after the operation and then sparingly till actively growing.

The following ferns can be recommended for trial in this locality. Adiantum Croweanum Cuneatum and Grandiceps the latter the crested variety, Alsophila Australis (Australian Tree Fern), Cibotium Scheidel a large light green handsome growth making beautiful specimens, a good house plant, the various Nephrolepis or Boston Ferns, several Pteris notably Tremula, and the native Polypodium and Woodwardia must not be forgotten or the bracken. A very good fern hardy and interesting is Asplenium Bulbifarum, called by some the Mother Fern because the spores sprout on the mature fronds and make small plants. The other tree fern grown here is Dicksonia Antartica. We don't grow enough ferns though the number of most pleasing out-of-door ferneries planted by Miss Sessions is ever increasing as their charm becomes apparent, by the way this lady knows more about ferns than most of us ever dreamed, as those who attended a recent meeting of the Floral Association found out. Why, Miss Sessions encountered a Bird's-nest fern in Hawaii so large that she played hide-and-seek in it and could not be found—anyway you know Miss Sessions.

THE TWO-FAMILY GARDEN

From U. S. Agricultural Bulletin

The garden spot is the most productive fraction of an acre on most farms, yet on many it is often one of the most neglected in many respects. In the hurry and rush of the spring work it is manured possibly, and plowed and planted, or partly planted, and then the care of it falls to the women and children. If the farmer were to carefully consider the proportion of the family living that comes from the garden, he would realize that it deserves much more careful attention than it receives from him.

Not only can the garden be made much more profitable, and help out the family ration by increasing it and also by balancing it somewhat better, but it can be made a means of considerable supplement to the income received from the principal farm industries. By having a two-family garden—that is, raising garden stuff enough for two families and finding a customer in town or city who would like to have garden (and other) products direct from the farm at least once each week—more could be realized from the farm, both for the family table and the family purse. Many a town or city housewife would be glad to receive a good-sized market basketful of fresh garden stuff directly from the producer by parcel post, express, or direct delivery by the farmer's own conveyance—whichever would prove the most satisfactory and economical.

While there is quite a list of vegetables that can be grown in practically any garden, yet very many gardens are limited to a comparatively small number of vegetables, a few others being included rather incidentally. In undertaking to conduct a two-family garden one of the first things of importance is to secure contact with the town or city consumer to be supplied. This is important because the city family has probably been using many

kinds of vegetables that the farmer has not raised, at least not in any quantity, and the plans for next year's garden should be begun as early as possible. The kinds of vegetables to be raised should be decided upon after learning the quantities and kinds used by the city family concerned, good seed secured in plenty of time, and such work done toward the preparation of the garden as the weather will allow. Winter vegetables, as well as those used direct from the garden in summer, should be kept in mind. These include not only such as dry navy, kidney, and lima beans but also lettuce, kale, spinach, cabbage, celery, carrots, turnips, and the like, depending on the particular section of the country. (For instructions and details on gardening, see United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletins 255 and 460.) As stated above, the town or city consumer will likely desire vegetables that are not now particularly used or cared for by the farm family, but the aim should be to produce that which would be desired by the customer as well as that desired by the farm family if the plan is to succeed.

In planning for a two-family garden, not only should the different kinds of vegetables be provided for but particular attention should be paid to the desires of the customer with reference to quality. Many city housewives, for instance, may desire stringless beans; when they ask for these they have in mind more a quality than a varietal name, and if they ask for stringless beans and are assured that they can receive them, and then when they come to use them find that they have strings, they will not only be disappointed to a considerable extent but discouraged at the idea of direct marketing as being preferable to securing their vegetables in the ordinary way from the city market or grocery store. While it will not be possible to cater to all the whims of the would-be consumer, it must be kept in mind that the farmer's family usually takes such quality as is produced without any particular questioning, but when a city consumer orders from a farmer he expects to get produce of a quality which he has in mind, and every endeavor should be made to meet his reasonable requirements so that the business may be established upon a mutually satisfactory working basis. Give a purchaser what he or she wants and is willing to pay for.

Not only will this plan provide an outlet for vegetables (and it is practically as easy to raise vegetables for two families as for one), but it will also establish a contact through which various other farm products may be marketed.

SHORT PLANTING NOTES

Miss K. O. SESSIONS

Never before, during the past twenty years, has San Diego been so favored with gentle and warm showers before January first. It certainly pays to get ready for company and have a big party. The gods must know that we have endeavored to do this and so have rewarded us. So let us show our appreciation by making the most of this perfect season.

At once we can plant, either by seed or plants started in the nurseries, stock in variety, Coreopsis, Calendulas, Forget-me-nots, Snapdragons, Candytuft, Centaureas, Schizanthus, Shirley Poppy, Scarlet Flax, Salpiglossis and Scabiosa.

In perennials, Marguerites, Pentstemons, Dimorphotheca, Gaillardia, Romneya Coulteri, Carnations are desirable.

Roses of all kinds are in order for the next three months and now is just the very best time to plan for and plant them.

For shrubs one can never make a mistake in using the Leptospermums, Hawthorns—red berry and orange-berry—Abelias, most of the Melaleucas, Myrtles, Genistas, Heathers, Pittosporums, Rapheolepis, Heliotropes, etc.

All hardwood rose cuttings to be set out in the open must be in at once. This mild winter makes rose slips harder to propagate. Cold and wet weather makes the wood more dormant and the slips have more lasting vitality and are surer of rooting.

Aloes in variety should be more generally cultivated in San Diego because they are winter and spring bloomers, very droughth resisting, need little or no pruning and care, have striking and effective flowers of a soft red or shades of terra cotta. The seed pods are also decorative and interesting. They increase rapidly and are excellent for urns and tubs and bare hillsides. They are particularly interesting to travelers from other parts of the United States, because they are seldom seen, being sensitive to cold weather, and most of the United States is much cooler than San Diego. Besides, Aloes, Echeverias, Crassulas and Sedums are all excellent plants for local cultivation, in that they are unique, interesting and decorative.

Streptosolen Jamesonii, with its rich orange shaded blossoms, is just coming into bloom. This plant is worthy of more general culture, because it is so brilliantly in bloom from January to April.

The Early Bird takes a Peck at the Visitor

I HAVE never seen a book on garden etiquette but I am sure we shall want one this year and therefore this theme I take for January. It is altogether probable that all of us will have visitors from "benighted lands of barrenness and drouth" and that we shall show them our gardens. Far be it from me to say how you shall do this, but later on you will wish to take them to those of your neighbors and friends and here is where I stick in my bill. Let me say to begin with that most of the hints conveyed here come through me, rather than from me, having been gleaned from comments on my own behavior after the farewell of a party I had personally conducted through the garden. As to who did the commenting that is no one's business but mine.

Having heretofore enjoyed the privilege of going through a friend's garden entitles no one to consider themselves thereby automatically appointed to the post of special guide at all subsequent visits, taking precedence of the owner. Of course if such a case ever occurs, the extra special wishes to save the owner trouble, and possibly is incomparably better equipped mentally, socially, etc., but the real joy of the real gardener is to show his garden and he has preferences as to what to show and what not to show, being tolerably posted as to what is showable. It is not inconveivable that what at one visit was a perfumed flower bed may at a subsequent one be an odoriferous manure pile. Consider the possible complication.

It is not kind nor thoughtful to prompt the host. This is not saying it is not necessary; there could be no etiquette based on bare necessity. Etiquette is the fashionable wardrobe of the mind." Oh Dear So-and-So do show Mrs. Backeaster that LOVELY Thingamy," often brings on a strenuous situation.

A gardener so loves his garden that he frequently does strange things as he exploits its charms to the stranger. In its walks, he is like a German teacher who once rashly essayed to teach her native tongue to the bird, but was so interested in the fairy tales she took for a text book that the poor pupil had no chance to read himself. So the enthusiast will get between the visitor and the thing to be seen just because he is so glad to see it himself.

It has always been a difficult point to decide whether a visiting garden ignoramus should be allowed to spend time and enthusiasm according to the ignorance or should be made to give honor where honor is due. Were this a gardening article the latter course would be advocated, but being the first treatise on etiquette, the former must be recommended, but only for the exposition year. There are limits to even the demands of politeness.

Sorrowfully it is admitted that there be visitors who don't give a hang for the garden but come just because they were brought. These should be allowed to pass unseeingly by all favorite blooms, even the one that never bloomed before, and to take their leave with the vague idea that you are a weak-minded friend of their friend who has to be kept in the open air. Then there is the visitor who pretends to come to see your garden but really makes that an excuse for an endless dissertation on the glories of a garden back east, punctuating their matter with measurements and colors that never existed in air, earth or water. Remember this is the year of our exposition; you must listen and give no hint of doubt by word or manner, so shall the fame of our hospitality be increased in the land.

Leave your gates open; very few will abuse the appearance of confidence, and those would climb a ten-foot wall garnished with glass bottles frappe if they took a notion to get in.

In the palmy days of Versailles, garden etiquette must have been a wonderful thing, and in the lands where gardens take longer to grow and have shorter seasons than ours for their enjoyment, garden parties and fetes are attended with considerable ceremony. It is a safe bet that when we get the gardens we will have the parties plus all the frills necessary. It is in this belief that these preliminaries to the program are started. In a garden as everywhere true hospitality is based on finding out the guest's wishes and making it possible for that one to carry them out in his own sweet way.

The ground flanking the entrance to the Francis Parker School on Randolph Street has just been planted. The African Grape for the Pergola, Coprosma against the base of the building and the ornamental strawberry vine to cover the sloping ground instead of grass, will all combine to make a very charming effect in the near future. The interior court of the school is devoted to flowers and the first terrace has been planted to Annuals, mostly wildflowers.

At Soledad Terrace, Pacific Beach, one of the new flower-growing sections of the City, the wild-flowers are very forward. Already large patches of poppies, tidy-tips, popcorn, etc., are conspicuous. The shooting star, yellow violets and Indian pinks are fast coming into bloom.

The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager

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FEBRUARY MEETING

The February regular meeting of the Floral Association will be held at the home of Mrs. W. L. Frevert, 3535 First Street, on the evening of the 16th. The subject will be "Hydrangeas and Kindred Shrubs" and one of the speakers will be a son of Japan, where the Hydrangea is raised to perfection. Take Third Street cars to Walnut Street.

The Floral Association directors are beginning to arrange for a bulb show to be held the last of March. Particulars will be given in next month's magazine, but in the meantime each grower of bulb flowers should begin to plan on an exhibit.

The visit of Mr. Peter Bisset, Mr. O. F. Cook, and Mr. G. N. Collins, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C., at the time of the Horticultural Convention, has already borne fruit, for the Department has selected Chula Vista as a station for some experimental work with corn and cotton. Likewise, Berkeley, El Centro, Montecito, and Chico will have similar stations.

It is very evident to the plant enthusiasts that San Diego has a big future before her. In five years the plants will be surprising us, if we give them a chance. Who cannot dream of Point Loma and Pacific Beach holding competitive orchid and plant shows that will be more attractive to the multitude—mothers and fathers, children and friends, and millionaires—than auto races, with their expensive attachment of a surgical and hospital corps. Fairyland will be a reality, not a vision.

The "California Outlook" of January 2, 1915, contains a very interesting article entitled "The Sower went forth to sow"—well worth reading and heeding. A traveller in South America from this State, scattered California Poppy seed along his journey everywhere, and to-day the western coast is brilliant with Eschscholtzias during the spring.

The same number of the Outlook also calls attention to the Municipal Tree-Planting Ordinance, and says: "The cost of planting is infinitesinal compared with the benefits."

Schizanthus, in its variety of color and size of growth, is an exquisite and charming annual that has come to stay with us. It grows and blooms well in the open, but a partially shaded or sheltered location, or a place inside a light and sunny lath house, makes the growth lighter and gives the whole plant a more attractive appearance. It is good for beds, for window boxes on the east and north sides, for hanging baskets beneath some shade or shelter, and in the lath house baskets of it are beautiful. It lasts a long time and will produce plenty of seed for next year's planting. For table decorations and children's parties it is lovely. Seeds can be planted every three months, or plants can be bought cheaply from nurserymen, so we can have their beauty with us, as we have our Exposition, "all the year."

Schizanthus, "the poor man's orchid", everybody can have, but Mr. A. Darnaud, of the firm of Boyle & Darnaud began less than two years ago to grow orchids, and this holiday season their store windows carried a display that would do credit to older and larger establishments. Many plants bore from six to twelve blooms in perfection, others had five blooms and many buds. Plants sold from $10.00 to $25.00 each. San Diego felt proud of her customers this holiday season. People will part with their money for real beauty and the orchid is so lasting that it gives weeks of satisfaction and joy. Mr. William Meader of City Heights, is also growing orchids with much success.

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THE DAHLIA

A. D. Robinson

If previous advice has been followed dahlia bulbs are now resting where an excess of moisture or lack of air will not cause harm. Those spread out of doors under trees are doing nicely and the only danger would be in a protracted warm spell following a rain; this might induce premature sprouting. The writer has never grown dahlias by the method commonly practiced by professionals to increase their stock but the following description is taken from Gardening in California by John McLaren, who says it should be done in February. It is printed now because we live a month ahead of Northern California in a gardening sense.

"If an increase of the number of plants is desired old roots should now be put upon a bed having a mild bottom heat, the tubers being covered up to the collar with light leafmold or other light sandy soil. Syringe them twice daily, and, as soon as the young shoots have made two or three joints in length, slip them off and place them singly in small pots filled with sand and leaf mold, half and half, well mixed together: then plunge them in a close warm frame or green house and, when they are rooted, gradually expose them to air and light."

I visited the nursery of one of the biggest growers of dahlias in England when this process was in full blast and there the tubers were placed in shallow boxes packed with sphagnum moss. The operation is considered one of the easiest in the business and is chiefly confined to professionals because division of clumps usually gives the amateur all the plants he can use.

Planting of dahlia seed should be postponed another month, chiefly because of the difficulty of growing stocky strong plants at this season. Though little or no seed was harvested last year some of the previous year's crop is still on hand to be distributed as a premium to NEW SUBSCRIBERS of the California Garden. To give some idea of the singular quality of this seed and not with any idea of personal aggrandisement, it is here stated that in the last two weeks request for an article on dahlia breeding reached the writer from a scientific magazine published in Washington D. C. This compliment came solely because of reports of Rosecroft seedling dahlias carried back there by visitors to Point Loma. The invitation was declined not because the flowers were unworthy but because the grower had practiced none of the stunts of hand hybridization which would have entitled him to rank as a plant breeder. Possibly others are inclined to believe that I am something of a plant wizard, if so will such now take notice that my only claim to their regard is that of a plant lover and, I hope, common sense gardener. Some day I hope to write a most unscientific article about my dahlias, but I shall not inflict it on the readers of this magazine, they live too close at home.

If you are ordering dahlias don't forget Geisha, it is made to order for our Exposition year.

California Garden has a correspondent in West Hartlepool, England, where the recent bombardment took place. A letter has been received, which was written before the visit of the German fleet, however, in which our friend, Mr. W. C. King, tells of his success with a package of Rosecroft dahlia seed, sent to him last Spring. He says:

"They turned out exceedingly well. Several of them were fine big blooms, particularly one very large, fine curled pink cactus, which has been named "G. T. Keene." Another magnificent bright scarlet peony we have named "A. D. Robinson" and a beautiful white satin peony has been named "Miss Sessions." These are the only ones which we have named; the others are known only by the type, etc. All my friends are delighted with them, and the general cry is, "Where did you get the seed", and "Have you any more left?" We were not able to have our chrysanthemum show last month as all the big halls are taken up by troops. We are on the northeast coast of England, and a great number of troops are kept here in case they are needed. It is a terrible business, this war, and we shall be glad when it is all over and done with. A small show of chrysanthemums raised a total of £90 for the Belgian refugees. The first two blooms were sold for £10 and the first two leeks also brought £10. We wish you and all of the San Diego Floral Association a happy and prosperous New Year."

Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Doremus of Santa Barbara were most complimentary visitors to our Exposition the opening week, coming in their own auto. Dr. Doremus is president of the Santa Barbara Board of Park Commissioners and enjoyed selecting a small shipment of plants for the park work. He thinks our Exposition, taken as a whole, with buildings and grounds combined, is the most beautiful composition that has been produced and compliments San Diego on its success, and anticipates that the Exposition will enhance in beauty as the year advances, and be of great educational value to our city and the state.

Dr. and Mrs. Doremus both urged the more generous planting of Aloes, so easy of culture and of so much variety and individuality.

George P. Hall's book, "Garden Helps" is on sale at the California Garden office, 727 E St., and at various book and seed stores. 75 cents per copy.

Bulbs

With very few exceptions, bulbs like a loose ground, a sandy soid if rich is best, because they need to enlarge and must have perfect drainage. In adobes or clays, sand or light soil must be freely added and thoroughly mixed to a depth of a foot or more, the deeper the better. Only well rotted manure should be used to be incorporated, though a fresher article can be spread over the top after planting. An ideal plot is one that has been very heavily manured the year previous. It is good practice to mulch bulbs, it contributes to a cool moist condition that they like. Bulbs as a rule do not like much cultivation. Where feasible they should be planted in sunken beds so that an even irrigation can be applied—of course, this only in light, well drained soils. In stiff compounds, a raised bed would be indicated.

Miss T. H. Graham and three friends motored down from Sierra Madre in her 1915 Hupmobile, for the holiday season, and enjoyed the opening festivities of the Exposition. Miss Graham has built up a beautiful Italian home and most charming and elaborate gardens, naming her home "Mia Italia." She was an appreciative observer of the gardens and parks and Exposition grounds of the city, and is coming again for a longer stay during the summer. Miss Graham gave an order for a collection of Aloes and Echeverias.

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Fierce Battle on Rocks

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Led by these renowned veterans Noah and Great Expectations, the Rosecroft Barred Rock Brigade charged upon the enemy, strongly intrenched at Los Angeles. Though greatly outnumbered and engaging the enemy on his own ground, the two battle-scarred heroes nobly sustained their great reputation, leading their roostmates right to the colors. When the

smoke of the battle (which lasted two days and one night) cleared, Rosecroft had captured three blues, five reds, two yellows, two whites and three greens.

This victory closed the campaign for the season and our army will now go into spring quarters (breeding pens) where you are invited to inspect it and its equipment.

It is outfitted to fly or to mine, but it is too humane to adopt the submarine.

Headquarters for the army Rosecroft, Point Loma.

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We pay 4 per cent on term accounts ON THIS BASIS, YOUR ACCOUNT IS SOLICITED *Interest compounded twice a year*

Southern Trust & Savings Bank

U. S. Grant Hotel Building

Commercial, Savings and Safety Deposit Departments

Our business is conducted with conservatism, but also with enterprise and up-to-date methods.

Resources Over $2,840,000.00

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